

YLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TO ERADICATE ANTS IN HOUSES

There are several species of ants infesting houses, building their nests in the woodwork and masonry or in articles of furniture. In heated houses, they breed the year around and feed upon food found in the kitchens and pantries or scattered about living rooms. There are other species that live in lawns, gardens or under walks near houses and enter dwellings on foraging expeditions or become accidental guests.

The ants infesting houses can be divided into two general classes, the little red ants that prefer grease, the larger black ants (the carpenter ants) and the large brown ants that like the sweets. To kill the sweet loving ants, place one part of tartar emetic to 20 parts of honey, where they can easily reach it. The dish must be covered and labeled so that children and others will not get into it by mistake. The poison acts slowly, so the ants will carry it as food to the nest, killing the queen and young in the nest as well as themselves.

For the grease-loving kinds, rub a little of the tartar emetic into a bacon rind, or if that is not convenient, mix the tartar emetic with grease, one part to 20 parts. Use the same safety caution as with the poisoned honey.

Another method is to dust, wherever the ants frequent, a liberal supply of sodium fluoride. This is a flour-like compound and kills the ants when they come in contact with it.

Washing unpainted woodwork with a one to 1,000 solution of mercuric chloride will repel some species of ants. This solution is prepared by placing one one-grain tablet of the mercuric chloride in one quart of warm water. This solution is a very deadly poison and care must be taken in its use. Keep the solution from irresponsible persons and do not bring in contact with metal.

